

BY: Senator GRIFFO

COMMEMORATING the 50th Anniversary of Symeon's
Greek Restaurant of Yorkville, New York

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize illustrious culinary establishments which have positively impacted and substantially contributed to the vitality of their communities; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Symeon's Greek Restaurant of Yorkville, New York; and

WHEREAS, The Mohawk Valley got its first taste of authentic Greek cuisine on October 12, 1973, when the doors to Symeon's Greek Restaurant were opened; and

WHEREAS, Symeon Tsoupelis and his wife, Ann, were the very first to establish a restaurant on Oneida Street in the City of Utica, New York; during its humble beginnings, the building could only seat 20 guests, and while Symeon operated the restaurant, Ann was busy at home crafting all the desserts and being a full-time mother to two young children; and

WHEREAS, After three prosperous years in Utica, Symeon's Greek Restaurant relocated to Genesee Street in New Hartford, where the dining area could accommodate twice as many diners; for another six years, the restaurant was wildly successful and Symeon and Ann Tsoupelis knew the time had come for yet an even bigger building and a more prime location; and

WHEREAS, In 1982, Symeon and Ann Tsoupelis purchased their current Commercial Drive property in Yorkville, New York; and

WHEREAS, With much hard work dedicated to treating guests as family and consistently serving delicious Greek cuisine, Symeon's Greek Restaurant continued to grow far beyond what its owners had ever imagined; and

WHEREAS, After only a few years at the new location, the first addition, another large dining room, was added to nearly double the seating capacity; three years later, the second addition expanded the dining area even more and grew the size of the kitchen; and

WHEREAS, Symeon's Greek Restaurant continued to flourish, and the final addition, a dining room in the front and a lobby where guests could comfortably wait for their tables, was added in 1991; and

WHEREAS, Overcoming much adversity, including the death of Ann Tsoupelis in 2001, and a devastating fire the following winter, Symeon's Greek Restaurant continues to be a local favorite and true staple within its beloved community; and

WHEREAS, A cornerstone of Symeon's Greek Restaurant is the love for family, and in 2001, Symeon sold the business to his youngest son, Symeon Jr. and his wife, Shelli, who now continue to carry the success of the business; and

WHEREAS, The legacy created by Symeon and Ann Tsoupelis is being carefully preserved by Symeon Jr., as he and his wife work side-by-side, along with their daughter, Sophia; their son, Symeon III is coming of age and will soon become a part of the business; and

WHEREAS, In addition to furthering the success of this extraordinary Greek establishment, Symeon Jr. has also dedicated himself to honoring the memories of his mother and sister through involvement in organizations which support cancer research, awareness, and education; and

WHEREAS, The remarkable success of Symeon's Greek Restaurant is due in large part to its owners and dedicated staff whose warmth and hospitality are easily recognized by their loyal patrons; this dynamic team is well-versed in customer service and truly makes everyone who walks through their door feel like family; and

WHEREAS, For five decades, Symeon's Greek Restaurant has stood as a beloved establishment which has provided a friendly, open environment for patrons to collectively gather and share their thoughts, ideas and life experiences; and

WHEREAS, It is with great pleasure that this Legislative Body acknowledges this exceptional business and its contributions to the local and State economies, fully confident that it will continue to enjoy the sparkling successes it has experienced thus far; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Symeon's Greek Restaurant, and to offer its best wishes to its owners for continued success in all their future endeavors; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Symeon's Greek Restaurant, Yorkville, New York.